During recent visit of an Indian delegation to China it was agreed that the Indian side would submit proposals for planning and development of opencast mines in China.

**Export of agricultural commodities**

*13. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of exports of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during the last three years till date with year-wise and month-wise figures;

(b) what is India's share in the global trade in agricultural commodities at present;

(c) whether there has been any decline in the agricultural exports as per centage of India's total exports during the above period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefor and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The details of exports of various agricultural commodities since 1991-92 are given below:

(Rs. crores)

| S.No. | Commodity | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rice | 754.93 | 971.03 | 1280.09 |
| 2 | Wheat | 121.47 | 10.18 | 0.27 |
| 3 | Other Cereals. | 6.74 | 10.14 | 122.03 |
| 4 | Tobacco | 377.29 | 483.06 | 460.96 |
| 5 | Spices | 370.40 | 360.02 | 561.21 |
| 6 | Cashew Kernels | 671.51 | 764.05 | 1044.34 |
| 7 | Sesame & Niger Seeds | 101.19 | 116.20 | 75.17 |
| 8 | Groundnut | 7.40 | 7.95 | 157.68 |
| 9 | Oilmeals & Guargum Meals | 1013.94 | 1642.15 | 2451.20 |
| 10 | Shellac | 25.30 | 40.69 | 65.67 |
| 11 | Sugar & Molasses | 157.25 | 353.51 | 176.87 |
| 12 | Fruits, Vegetables, Processed Food, etc. | 785.06 | 867.70 | 1063.74 |
| 13 | Spirit & Beverages | N.A. | 41.65 | 44.94 |
| | TOTAL: | 4392.93 | 5678.83 | 7524.25 |

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Major destinations are countries in West Asia, South East Asia, Europe and USA. Details of country-wise exports are contained in the March 1993 and March 1994 issues of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries of DGCI &S, copies of which are available in Parliament Labrary.

(b) India's share of export of agro-based commodities is less than 1 per cent of the world trade.

(c) The details of India's overall exports and those of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) since 1991-92 are as below:

(Rs. crores)

| | 1991-92 | 1992-93 | 1993-94 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. India's overall exports | 44041.81 | 53688.26 | 69546.97 |
| 2. Exports of agricultural commodities | 4392.93 | 5678.83 | 7524.25 |
| 3. % share of agricultural commodities to overall exports from India. | 9.97% | 10.58% | 10.82% |

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Government attaches high priority to the export of farm products. Some of the specific steps taken to promote farm exports are:-

(1) Lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector.

(2) Bringing the sector under the purview of the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and allowing agriculture based EOUs the benefit of 50 per cent of turnover to be sold in the domestic market as against the 25 per cent norm generally fixed.

(3) More aggressive overseas publicity and sponsoring of trade delegations, arranging of buyer-seller meets and arranging of inter-action with importers.

**Appointment of retired officers in Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries**

*14. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to Unstarred Questions 672 and 679 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired officials are being appointed as advisors or in any other capacity by Coal India Ltd. or its subsidiaries or in the Ministry of Coal drawing salaries from the funds of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details of such officials who after retirement are serving Coal India Limited, Coal Ministry or any of its subsidiaries as Advisors or in any other capacity; and

(c) the details of terms and conditions of their services such as payment, perks, facilities and the work being attended to by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to(c) Coal India Ltd maintenance a panel of Advisors consisting of persons who have expertise in technical managerial and other areas relevant to the coal industry. The panel also includes retired officers of coal companies. CIL have informed that the services of Advisors in the panel are obtained as and when needed in very specific and specialised jobs. The Advisors whose services are engaged are paid remuneration at prescribed daily rates in accordance with the rank they held at the time of their retirement, payment being restricted upto 10 days in a month. They are also provided boarding and lodging facilities where available and paid daily allowance and travel facilities as applicable to the officers of CIL of similar ranks. The panel of Advisors as on 20.7.94 is enclosed as statement. (See below) which also indicates the area of expertise of each member of the panel.